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FRP: 121959Z MAY 85

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PAGE 001

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FM JCS WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUEADWD/PTC WASH DC

RUEBARE/DIRNAVINVSERV WASHINGTON DC

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

RUEAMCC/CMC CC WASHINGTON DC

RUETIAR/DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD

RUEOFAA/COMJSOCRT BRAGG NC/7327/

ROCUAAA/OSCINCREDC MACDILL AFB FL

RUCIFBA/MAC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB ILX//INW//INZ//

RUEABOL/HQ AFOSI BOLLING AFB DC

RODRAAB/CDROSAITAC ARLINGTON HALL STATION VA

ROEALGX/SAFE

O 121947Z MAY 85 ZEE4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS NIACI IMMEDIATE

RUEAWE/USDEL SECRETARY NIACI IMMEDIATE 8175

INFO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS STATE 145061 TOSEC 090566

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, XF, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE,

MAY 12, 1985

UNCLASSIFIED

STAT

1

UNCLASSIFIED

STATE

85-7276051 SUD

PAGE 002
STORY 121954Z MAY 85

NC 7276051

1. U.S. ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUNDAY, MAY 12, WASHINGTON POST CARRIES FRONT PAGE STORY WHICH ALLEGES THAT A COVERT USG ANTI-TERRORIST PLAN IN LEBANON WAS RESCINDED AFTER "UNAUTHORIZED BOMBING." THE STORY CONTENDS THAT LATE LAST YEAR THE USG APPROVED A COVERT OPERATION TO TRAIN AND SUPPORT COUNTER-TERRORIST UNITS, MANNED BY NON-US. PERSONNEL, FOR STRIKES AGAINST SUSPECTED TERRORISTS BEFORE THEY COULD ATTACK U.S. FACILITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE STORY GOES ON TO STATE THAT ABOUT FOUR MONTHS LATER ON MARCH 8 MEMBERS OF ONE OF THE UNITS WENT ON A "RUNAWAY MISSION" AND BOMBED FADL ALLAH HEADQUARTERS IN BEIRUT. AS A RESULT THE PURPORTED COVERT PROGRAM WAS CANCELLED.

3. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS FULLY CLEARED INTER-AGENCY AND WILL BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN, WHICH SHOULD BE DRAWN ON AS APPROPRIATE BY ADDRESSEES.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON TODAY'S STORY IN THE POST ABOUT COVERT PROGRAMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. WE DO NOT COMMENT ON ANY STORIES INVOLVING INTELLIGENCE MATTERS OR ALLEGED INTELLIGENCE MATTERS.

Q. YOU ARE PROSCRIBED BY LAW FROM ASSASSINATION ACTIONS. WASN'T THIS ACTION, THEREFORE, ILLEGAL?

A. ONCE AGAIN, I AM NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON STORIES INVOLVING INTELLIGENCE MATTERS OR ALLEGED INTELLIGENCE MATTERS. AS A GENERAL STATEMENT, I WOULD LIKE TO AFFIRM, HOWEVER, THAT WE DO NOT DERTAKE ANY ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE LAW, THAT HAS BEEN AND REMAINS OUR POLICY.

Q. THE STORY CONTENDS THAT CONGRESS WAS NOT PROPERLY NOTIFIED. IS THAT CORRECT?

A. (REPEAT ANSWER TO FIRST QUESTION.) I WANT TO

UNCLASSIFIED

1

UNCLASSIFIED

STATE

85 7276051 SUO

PAGE 003

NC 7276051

TOR: 121942 MAY 85

REITERATE THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH FULLY MEETS ALL OF ITS OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, UNDER THE LAW.

Q. ARE WE DOING ANYTHING TO ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF AMERICANS IN THE AREA?

A. WITHOUT GETTING INTO THE DETAILS OF THE SECURITY MEASURES WE TAKE ABROAD, I WANT TO AFFIRM THAT THE SECURITY OF OUR PERSONNEL AND OTHER AMERICANS OVERSEAS IS CONTINUALLY A MATTER UNDER REVIEW. WE TAKE EVERY APPROPRIATE MEASURE TO HELP ENSURE THEIR SAFETY.

Q. IS THIS REPORTED PLAN PART OF YOUR NEW TOUGHER ANTITERRORIST POLICY?

A. I WILL NOT BE DRAWN INTO LINKING POLICY STATEMENTS TO SPECIFIC REPORTS OF ALLEGED ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND WILL NOT COMMENT ON SUCH MATTERS. THE SECRETARY HAS ENNUNCIATED U.S. POLICY TO COMBAT TERRORISM. HIS REMARKS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. ARMACOST

END OF MESSAGE

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